



BUILDING-STRUCTURE INVENTORY FORM

NYS OFFICE OF PARKS, RECREATION
& HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION
(518) 474-0479

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

UNIQUE SITE NO. _____
QUAD _____
SERIES _____
NEG. NO. _____

YOUR NAME: Cynthia Howk DATE: Dec., 1994

133 S. Fitzhugh St.
YOUR ADDRESS: Rochester, NY 14608 TELEPHONE: 546-7029

ORGANIZATION (if any): The Landmark Society of Western New York, Inc.

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME(S): Bell-Larkin-Janes House
2. COUNTY: Monroe TOWN/CITY: Greece VILLAGE: ---
3. STREET LOCATION: 543 Long Pond Road
4. OWNERSHIP: a. public ☐ b. private ☒
5. PRESENT OWNER: Dr. & Mrs. Gary Lang ADDRESS: (same) Rochester, NY 14612
6. USE: Original: residence/farm Present: residence/office
7. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: Yes ☒ No ☐
Interior accessible: Explain private residence

DESCRIPTION

8. BUILDING MATERIAL: a. clapboard ☐ b. stone ☐ c. brick ☐ d. board and batten ☐
e. cobblestone ☐ f. shingles ☐ g. stucco ☐ other aluminum siding
Roof = asphalt shingles. Foundation = cobblestone veneer.
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM: a. wood frame with interlocking joints ☒
b. wood frame with light members ☐
(if known) c. masonry load bearing walls ☐
d. metal (explain) _____
e. other _____
10. CONDITION: a. excellent ☒ b. good ☐ c. fair ☐ d. deteriorated ☐
11. INTEGRITY: a. original site ☒ b. moved ☐ if so, when? _____
c. list major alterations and dates (if known): _____

(see continuation sheet)

12. PHOTO:

13. MAP:

"This house has really curious columns. It also has synthetic siding. As it's a complex of farm buildings, it's a 'green plus.' " P.Malo.

COLOR CODE

Green plus



14. THREATS TO BUILDING: a. none known ☒ b. zoning ☐ c. roads ☐
d. developers ☐ e. deterioration ☐
f. other: _____
15. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS AND PROPERTY:
a. barn ☒ b. carriage house ☐ c. garage ☒ - attached
d. privy ☐ e. shed ☒ f. greenhouse ☐
g. shop ☐ h. gardens ☐
i. landscape features: mature deciduous & coniferous trees
j. other: metal corn crib (round)
16. SURROUNDINGS OF THE BUILDING (check more than one if necessary):
a. open land ☒ b. woodland ☒
c. scattered buildings ☒
d. densely built-up ☒ e. commercial ☒
f. industrial ☐ g. residential ☒
h. other: _____
17. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:
(Indicate if building or structure is in an historic district)

(see continuation sheet)

18. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING AND SITE (including interior features if known):

(see continuation sheet)

SIGNIFICANCE

19. DATE OF INITIAL CONSTRUCTION: c. 1852
ARCHITECT: not determined
BUILDER: not determined

20. HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

(see continuation sheet)

21. SOURCES: (see continuation sheet)

22. THEME: agricultural: former farm residence & outbuildings.

11c.

Contemporary aluminum siding has been installed over the original wood clapboard siding, c. 1960s-70s.

Contemporary porch railings and a handicapped ramp have been installed on the front porch (c. 1980s-90s).

The gable-roofed dormer on the facade (east elevation) and the picture window (four, double-hung sash) on the south elevation appear to be early-20th century additions.

A contemporary, glass-enclosed porch is located on the north elevation of the west (rear) wing (c. 1970s-80s).

The glass-enclosed breezeway and attached, two-car garage at the rear of the house are contemporary additions (mid-late 20th-century).

Two 20th-century, concrete block chimneys have been installed; one is on the south slope of the main roof, the other on the ridgeline of the west (rear) wing, near the gable end.

A contemporary casement window and metal awning have been added to the south elevation of the rear (west) wing.

Part of the interior (first floor) has been adapted for use as a dentist's office.

17. The house is located on a 2.5-acre lot on the west side of Long Pond Road in the northwest quadrant of the town. A driveway is located to the south of the house and leads to a contributing, gable-roofed barn (c. 1902-1924). The property retains two other outbuildings: the contemporary, round, metal silo (mid-20th century?) and a contemporary concrete block shed (mid-20th century?); both are southwest of the house. To the south and north of the house are two wide expanses of lawn, which act as a buffer between this farmstead the adjacent 1980s-90s housing tracts to the south, west and north. Across the street to the east is undeveloped woodland and a small, commercial shopping plaza.

18. The Bell-Larkin-Janes House is a mid 19th-century vernacular-style farmhouse with an Italianate-style front porch. The house is of frame construction on a cobblestone-

18. continued

veneered foundation (probably over fieldstone). The exterior walls are clad in contemporary aluminum siding (the original siding was probably wood clapboard; it may survive intact underneath the aluminum).

The form of the house is a two-story, front-gable-and-side-wing plan with a one-story, gable-roofed rear (west) wing. The front-gabled block is three-bays wide and two-bays deep. The side-gabled wing is three-bays wide and two bays deep. Fenestration is regular with most windows having 6/6, double-hung, wood sash. A diamond-shaped window is located in the front gable of the main block. Just under the front eave of the side-gabled wing are two small, rectangular frieze windows with sliding sash (one pane of glass in each sash). An early 20th-century, 1/1, double hung window is located in the facade dormer; a late-20th century triple casement window is on the south side of the rear wing.

The facade has a gable-roofed entrance porch and a one-story, shed-roofed open porch. Both porches have Italianate-style, square, chamfered columns and pilasters with ornate woodwork trim and curved brackets. The porch has been modernized with the addition of a contemporary railing (with turned balusters) and a handicapped ramp. The front entrance retains its original paired doors with round-arched glass windows above and solid wood panels below.

A contemporary, glassed-in breezeway and two-car garage have been added to the west (rear) wing of the house.

In addition to the historic farmhouse, the property contains several agricultural outbuildings and structures:

The two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed frame barn (c. 1902-1924) is located west of the house. The walls of the barn are narrow, vertical, wood siding. A sliding track door is located on the east elevation.

The round, metal storage silo and a small, concrete block shed (without a roof) are also located to the west of the house. Both appear to be of mid-20th century construction.

A contemporary (c. 1980s-90s), tall, wide-board, privacy fence is located to the north of the house.

20. The Bell-Larkin-Janes House is architecturally significant as a distinctive, mid-19th century, vernacular farmhouse with Italianate details in the town. It retains its original farmhouse and gabled barn, as well as several 20th-century agricultural buildings. It is historically significant for its associations with the agricultural heritage of Greece. It is also significant for its associations with the Larkin family, who operated the hotel in North Greece hamlet, and the Janes family, after whom Janes Road is named. These are two prominent, early settlers in this section of the town.

The ell-plan, gable-roofed house is representative of the typical vernacular farmhouse built in Greece during the mid-19th century. Though the house is vernacular in form, its chamfered porch posts, pilasters and roof overhang were inspired by the Italianate style. The decorative wood banding on the capitals of the porch columns is particularly distinctive and more elaborate than the usual banding. There are no other examples of this type of Italianate column capital in the town.

The 1852 county map shows a building on this site; the owner is "Geo. Bell." With the vernacular design of the house, it is possible that it was constructed as early as the 1850s, with the Italianate-style porch added c. 1870s-80s. The small, rectangular frieze windows on the facade (just under the eaves) are indicative of the Greek Revival style, just preceding this era.

The 1872 county map shows this property as lot 33 with two buildings on the site (this house appears to be the more southern of the two buildings shown). The owner is "P. Larkin." At the four corners of the North Greece hamlet nearby, there is a building on the southeast corner of Latta and North Greece Roads marked "P. Larkin Hotel." It appears that P. Larkin, the owner of the hotel, resided here at this farmstead in the 1870s.

The 1902 county map shows this site as a 128-acre parcel owned by Anna E. Larkin (widow of P. Larkin?). Two buildings on shown on this property. The road is named "Greece Center Road." Larkin Creek bisects the farm on its way northeast to Buck Pond. Constructed in the late 19th century, the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad track cuts through the northeast corner of this property. Just north of the railroad, Beattie Road (now Janes Road) extends to the east.

20. continued

The 1924 county map shows this property as a 126.5-acre parcel owned by W. E. Janes. The house is shown; a small outbuilding, and a large outbuilding are located to the west. A second, small residence is shown to the south, near the property line (no longer extant; it may have been a tenant house). Larkin Creek and the New York Central Railroad track are also shown. The road is still named "Greece Center Road," but to the northeast is "Janes Road."

The 1930 suburban directory lists the road as "Long Pond Road." Three members of the Janes family are listed: Mrs. Marah H. Janes (widow of Warham E.); George Janes, farmer and his wife, Rowena; and Walter E. Janes, farmer. It is possible that Mrs. Marah Janes lived in the main house with one of her sons, and the other Janes lived in the smaller house (no longer extant), south of the main residence.

The Greece Historian's files contain some information on the Janes family. Warham Whitney Janes was born c. 1820/24, possibly in Chenango County. He married Eugenia Davidson (1826-1910) about 1845. Their children were Samuel D. (c. 1846), Susan J. (1848, in Seneca Co.), Bertha E. (c. 1849), Warham Eugene, Laura, and Charlotte (c. 1852-1918), who married William Hall Clark. Warham Whitney Janes came to Greece c. 1832, then left his family here while he went west, headed for California. He returned to Greece in 1849. Either W.W. Janes or his father bought land where Janes Road is now located. The title, however, was contested and they lost the land. One son, Warham Eugene Janes, married Marah C. Haddleton (she was born in England). It is W.E. Janes who is listed as owner of this property on the 1924 map; his wife, Marah, is listed as owner in the 1930 suburban directory.

Walter E. Janes, also listed in the 1930 directory, was a son of Warham Eugene and Marah Janes. He was born in Illinois, but his family moved to Ithaca and he went to high school there. They subsequently returned to Greece, where they already owned this property on the west side of Long Pond Road next to the railroad track. Walter Janes went to college and served in World War I. He then returned to the family home and farmed for a while, as his father was not well. Subsequently, he moved to Vermont for a time, but returned to Greece and farmed here from 1923-1940 (per 10/4/69 information from Walter Janes). Walter Janes was married to Merrienne M. Boheen.

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20. continued

The 1959 county map shows this property, now reduced to the acreage it has today. The owners are C.L. and C. J. Beaty. The agricultural buildings are still intact. They are located to the rear of the house, where a grouping of four frame outbuildings and a silo are shown. Two small outbuildings are directly behind (west of) the house. A large outbuilding (present barn with a large west wing?) is farther to the west and a small outbuilding with round attached silo is shown behind (to the west of) the large barn. The western part of the former 126.5-acre parcel has been sold to "Fallone Construction Co. Inc." The subdivision of this farm reflects the post-World War II suburban development (and construction of new housing) in this part of Greece, a mostly rural, agricultural community until the mid-1900s.

21. See final report for bibliography.



